



PAN at UN Climate Conference COP28: Agroecology Must Be a Priority

Global food systems took center stage at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 28 (COP28), which was held in December. This UN climate conference, hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, presented a key opportunity to wean the world off industrial agriculture reliant on fossil-fueled chemical inputs like pesticides and fertilizers.

PAN International encourages COP28 to make agroecology a priority

On the opening day of COP28, PAN International Chair Maimouna Diene (PAN Africa) submitted a Briefing Report on behalf of the PAN network, *Food Systems Transformation at COP28: Why agroecology must be prioritized*, to all 326 National Focal Points to the UNFCCC.

The briefing opened with the following:

- Agri-food systems generate over a third of total greenhouse gas emissions, with agriculture generating a third of that, including the systematic use of agrochemicals.
- Private and public funding for agriculture primarily supports carbon-heavy, agri-food systems, including industrial farming for global value chains reliant on pesticides.
- Transforming the global food system and its financing is critical for adapting to climate change and preventing further temperature increases.
- Agroecological approaches offer the most significant mitigation and adaptation potential, as well as socio-environmental benefits.
- The IPCC reports that agroecological farming could cut emissions by 2.8–4.1 GtCO₂e per year — equivalent to 6.8%–10% of 2021 global energy related emissions — while maintaining productive and equitable food systems underpinning adaptation.

These actions would reduce pesticide and fertilizer pollution by at least half, and phase out the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).

The COP28 Presidency’s Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda encouraged governments to align national food and agriculture



Courtesy: Global People's Caravan / BARCIC

People from climate-impacted rural communities in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, demand meaningful climate action be taken at COP28.

reforms with the legally binding Paris Agreement by 2025. Mandates that came out of the 2015 COP21 Paris Agreement include Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and a National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The next step, after COP28, is for countries to put into action the mandates built into the NDCs and NAP, and agroecology must be central to their implementation.

Those most impacted by climate change push for agroecology

These demands are echoed by those most affected by the climate crisis: rural peoples in the Global South. Yet, these individuals and communities are not typically given a voice in UN climate talks. The Global People’s Caravan for Food, Land and Climate Justice has been bringing together rural peoples and communities to discuss their shared vision for policy directions on food, land and climate justice. And, their ideas show a stark contrast to the future charted out by big corporations, often at the expense of these communities.

The Caravan amplifies the demands of rural peoples — who feed the world — to address the climate crisis:

continued on back page



Inside This Issue

The Power of Collective Action p. 2
2022–2023 Annual Report p. 3

How We Win: The Power of Collective Action in California Pesticide Policy

by Asha Sharma, Organizing Co-Director

If you subscribe to PAN's news feed and received our recent California content, then you have already heard the great news that the primary bill that PAN co-sponsored in California last year has been signed into law by Governor Newsom. AB 652, authored by Assemblymember Alex Lee, will establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee at the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Now, the people and communities most impacted by pesticide exposure, like farmworkers, will have a say in our state's pesticide regulations.

Collective effort to support environmental justice communities

What you might not know is that there was a tremendous amount of collective effort behind the scenes of this bill becoming law. This work can serve as a model for future pesticide policy change.

Thousands of PAN's California supporters sent messages to the state legislature and Governor Newsom's office urging them to support the bill. On top of that, 113 partner organizations and local leaders supported the bill by contacting legislators and the Governor's office directly, signing onto letters to decision-makers, participating in social media campaigns, and speaking in legislative hearings.

We also worked closely with the other bill co-sponsors, Californians for Pesticide Reform and Safe Ag Safe Schools, to ensure that environmental justice communities were a part of the process. For instance, we worked together to bring farmworkers to Sacramento for legislative hearings so that they could speak directly with legislators about the need for the bill.

From the bill's inception to its signing, a wide range of people showed up to voice strong support for this bill. Community members and local organizers participated in advocacy days and meetings with decision-makers. We sent petitions to the Governor's office with signatures from farmworkers who support the bill, and worked with multiple farmer-serving organizations to show broad support from farmers as well. And we communicated with each other to facilitate effective advocacy.

We were also very fortunate to work with environmental justice champion, Assemblymember Alex Lee, who authored the bill. Asm. Lee made it a top priority, speaking passionately about the need for its passage in legislative hearings and with other key decision-makers. Asm. Lee is also present in the above image.

We can change, and have changed, California's pesticide policies

At the end of the day, the bill prevailed because the power of the collective outweighed the power of industry, despite more than 35 industry groups strongly lobbying against the bill. Groups like the American Chemistry Council, the California Chamber of Commerce, and the Western Plant Health Association all brought strong opposition at each stage of the bill's progress. We were able to gain broad support for the bill because of our long history of working in coalitions made up of dozens of diverse partner organizations, and our commitment to building reciprocal relationships, especially with grassroots partners.



Advocates and farmworkers congregate after testifying in support of AB 652 at a legislative hearing.

This committee will pave the way for decision-making at the Department of Pesticide Regulation that finally begins to address the racial and socioeconomic disparities in the health impacts of pesticides. We look forward to continuing to support strong, collective movements centered in grassroots decision-making that uproot industrial, chemical-dependent agriculture. Instead we seek to build farming systems centered on collective well-being.

Your willingness to send your messages of support, either individually or through actions PAN provided, was a valuable part of this entire process. Together we made a difference. But we have much more to do and I hope you'll join us! Additional information about AB 652 can be found on our website. —

Sustain PAN's Work Give Monthly



When you join PAN as a Sustainer, you become part of a vital group that donates each month to fund grassroots science, collaboration with frontline communities, and policy change. We rely on consistent support from Sustainers to work towards a healthy, fair and resilient system of food and farming.

Become a Sustainer today by going to www.panna.org/give-monthly.

2022–2023 Annual Report



Program Highlights

During the fiscal year April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, we leveraged our collective strengths to continue a steady path forward in our work to transform food and farming systems. Over the past year we've collaborated with partners in vibrant local coalitions and through our international network, and coordinated strategies to advance public policy toward agroecological practices and support those on the frontlines of chemical-intensive agriculture.

On the national level, PAN helped to win reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act (PRIA 5), which included many improvements for farmworkers, including a mandate for bilingual pesticide labels — a long overdue win. This legislation also holds EPA accountable by requiring review of data beyond that provided by industry sources.

We published “Pesticides and Climate Change: A Vicious Cycle,” the first in-depth

scientific review of pesticides’ impact on climate change (and vice versa). Our report features evidence-based recommendations for how policymakers can help break this cycle by supporting agroecological farming practices and pesticide reduction targets, and promoting the rights of people most impacted by pesticide use.

After nearly two years of advocacy, PAN and the coalition to Stop the #ToxicAlliance succeeded in meeting with high level staff at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to discuss FAO’s partnership with CropLife International, the trade association representing the world’s largest pesticide manufacturers. The UN agency responded to massive global pressure including our letter signed by 430 civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations from 69 countries.

As part of California Food and Farming Network’s farmworker advocacy group, we helped to pass a bill to update a pesticide

exposure monitoring program and another to provide farmworker housing support.

In Iowa, we advocated to increase the liability of pesticide applicators that cause damage to neighboring farms, and provide more support to farmers who experience harms from drift.

In Minnesota, we organized a BIPOC “Farmer Equity & Environmental Justice State Policy” training cohort, and supported a campaign to conduct well water testing for toxics in low income rural communities.

In Hawai'i, we coordinated with local partners and youth to restore an ancient area of growing kalo (taro), an important Indigenous staple food, and promoted legislation to enact pesticide application buffer zones around schools and parks, and improve reporting requirements.

We welcomed Mary Vradelis as our Interim Executive Director from September 2022 to December 2023, and we share our gratitude for her leadership!



Financial Report

PAN recognizes all grants, pledges and contributions in the year they are committed. In our fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, we invested 16.3% of total unrestricted revenue (16.6% of expenses) in core support for our mission: administration, fundraising and infrastructure.

Program activities, including serving as the fiscal sponsor to a number of grassroots groups that do not yet have tax-exempt status, were 83.3% of total expenses.

For more information, please see our audited financial statements and our IRS Form 990, available at www.panna.org. The IRS Form 990 is also available at www.GuideStar.org.

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2023

Assets	
Cash	1,982,254
Investments	352,504
Contributions receivable	612,764
Prepays and other receivables	57,393
Property & equipment, net	24,753
Right-of-use asset: premises	116,178
Deposits	10,325
Total Assets	3,156,171
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	69,901
Grants payable	18,150
Accrued liabilities	113,853
Grant & custodial fund liabilities	267,993
Operating lease payable	106,778
Total Liabilities	576,675
Net Assets	
Without donor restriction	754,949
With donor restriction	1,824,547
Total Net Assets	2,579,496
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	
	3,156,171

Statement of Activities for the year ended March 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenue and Support			
Foundation grants	308,000	1,912,271	2,220,271
Gov't grants	0	160,768	160,768
Contributions	780,726	16,966	797,692
Contracts	37,989	0	37,989
Program service fees	16,138	0	16,138
Investment income	16,840	0	16,840
Gain (loss) on investments	(29,885)	0	(29,885)
Other	2,117	0	2,117
Contributed goods & services	13,700	0	13,700
Net assets released from restrictions	2,636,906	(2,636,906)	0
Total Revenue and Support	3,782,531	(546,901)	3,235,630
Allocation of Support Program			
Core programs	1,694,552	0	1,694,552
Coalitions	1,389,207	0	1,389,207
Total Program	3,083,759	0	3,083,759
Management & general	328,479	0	328,479
Development	286,786	0	286,786
Total Expenses	3,699,024	0	3,699,024
Change in Net Assets	83,507	(546,901)	(463,394)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	671,442	2,371,448	3,042,890
Net Assets, End of Year	754,949	1,824,547	2,579,496

Current Board

of Directors (Dec. 2023)

Kyle Powys Whyte
Board President
University of Michigan

Jodi Angelo
Board Treasurer
Trillium Asset Management

Christine Hall
Morehouse School of Medicine

Audrey Tran Lam
Center for Energy & Environmental Education,
University of Northern Iowa

Nse Obot Witherspoon
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Patti Naylor
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Cheryl Danley
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Independent consultant

Iris Figueroa
Farmworker Justice

Executive Director
Allison Davis

Our Mission

Pesticide Action Network North America works to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.

As one of five PAN Regional Centers worldwide, we link local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. This network challenges the global proliferation of pesticides, defends basic rights to health and environmental quality, and works to ensure the transition to a just and viable society.

- Transform food systems away from fossil fuels.
- Move food and farming systems toward agroecology and people’s food sovereignty.
- End corporate monopoly over land, water, and natural resources.
- Polluters must pay for climate crisis destruction.
- Ensure genuine participation of rural peoples in climate policy.

The Caravan, co-organized by PAN Asia Pacific, has been organizing actions, community consultations, and caravans in various countries for the past several months. As a result, the Caravan organized and delivered a petition to COP28 policymakers and negotiators calling for the transformation of fossil fuel dependent food systems to agroecology as a climate solution. The petition also called for a stop to land and resource grabs in the name of false climate solutions.

Agroecology now!

The PAN Asia Pacific delegation at COP28 brought PAN’s recommendations and rural peoples’ demands to government leaders, negotiators and UN policymakers across the world.

This movement will not let Big Ag corporations use the climate crisis to consolidate their control, delay fossil fuel phaseouts, or capture the agenda for global food systems transformation. This delegation stands for just, equitable, healthy and sustainable food systems. Agroecology now! 🌱

Join our Heirloom Circle



Legacy giving is an easy and powerful way to support PAN’s work toward healthy, just food and farming systems for many years to come.

You can use the following language to leave a bequest to PAN in your will or trust.

“I bequeath \$_____ or ____% of my estate to Pesticide Action Network North America, 2029 University Ave, Suite 200, Berkeley, CA 94704, to be used for its general purposes.”

We also accept donations via retirement plans, life insurance policies and stock. Our tax ID # is 94-2949686.

If you’d like to discuss ways to give, please email Corrie at giving@panna.org.

Meet PAN’s New Executive Director, Allison Davis!

I am coming into this role with a lifelong interest in the ways organizations can support movements for a more just, safe and environmentally healthy world.

I’ve worked on projects with PAN staff in several roles over the years—first at Oxfam in work on the Equitable Food Initiative early in my career, and then more recently with Global GreenGrants Fund, which moves funding to grassroots, Indigenous-led environmental justice projects around the world, and supports

efforts like seed saving, reducing pesticide contamination of waterways, and helping small farmers survive without going into debt to pesticide corporations.

I see how all of these issues are connected: human rights and environmental health, farming and pesticide science, local foodways and climate change... everything about food is connected. It is this collaborative way of working that brought me to PAN, and I am so honored to be a part of it. 🌱



I am honored to be starting this journey, and to be working in solidarity with our community to keep this small but mighty team going. Together we will thrive and make a difference!”

— Allison Davis

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Donate online at www.panna.org/donate

